

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
GROUP ART UNIT 3627

In re Patent Application of:  
James R. Edgar

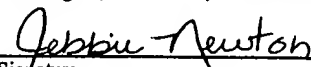
Serial No.: 09/975,649

Filed: October 11, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Title: "LATCH APPARATUS AND  
METHOD"

I, Debbie Newton, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
2-20-02  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the references, which are listed on the attached Forms PTO-1449, some of which may be deemed relevant to the present application. No concession is made that these documents are prior art, and Applicant expressly reserves the right to antedate the documents as may be appropriate. Applicant requests that each of these documents be made of record in the above-referenced application. A copy of each reference listed is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher B. Austin  
Reg. No. 41,592

File No. 87801-9015  
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP  
100 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 271-6560

## STATEMENTS OF RELEVANCE FOR NON-ENGLISH REFERENCES

### FR 2746840 (YMOS France)

This reference appears to disclose a motor vehicle door lock connected to inner and outer control members comprising at least one door opening element as well as at least one lock enabling/disabling element, is disclosed. The lock interacts with two connecting devices (15, 16) of which one is linked to the inner control members while the other is linked to the outer control members. Each connecting device comprises a connecting element movable between at least two positions, and each connecting element of the connecting devices (15, 16) is combined with a lever (12, 13) and a pivotable arm (11, 14). The two levers and the two pivotable arms are parallel to the same surface of the lock housing so that the lock pins (9, 14a) are all perpendicular to said surface.

### DE 538812 (REIMER Germany)

This reference appears to disclose an electronic latch operable with the use of at least one battery-powered electro-magnet.

### DE 685943 (Kuppersbusch)

This reference appears to disclose a door lock and handle assembly having a retractable bolt that can be locked in an extended position.

### DE 355578 (OTTO Germany)

This reference appears to disclose a spring-loaded handle assembly.

### IT 413637 (Torre Italy)

This reference appears to disclose a door lock and handle assembly.

DE 41 29 706 A1 (SWF Auto-Electric GmbH)

This reference appears to disclose a latch apparatus having a pawl that can be placed in locked and unlocked states corresponding to different pivotal states of a locking and unlocking member.

EP 0 694 665 A1 (YMOS France)

This reference appears to disclose a vehicle lock having an auxiliary battery for powering door locks in a vehicle in the event of power loss from a main battery.

DE 195 27 565 A1 (VDO Adolf Schindling AG)

This reference appears to disclose a device for releasing a door latch of a motor vehicle. The latch has a control switch which is responsive to a signal received when the vehicle is involved in an accident. Following an accident, the control switch sends an electrical signal to unlock the latch. A backup battery can be used for powering the control switch.

DE 195 47 727

This reference appears to disclose a latch assembly having a pawl releasably engagable with a ratchet and movable by a gear input and by a cable input to release the pawl from the ratchet to unlatch a striker. The latch assembly also appears to have sensors for detecting the position of the ratchet and the cable input.

DE 29701390

This reference appears to disclose a vehicle door latch having an electric motor that propels a drive component acting in cooperation with a slotted pawl to move the latch into a locked and unlocked condition.

**Form PTO-1449**  
(Rev. 2-32)

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.: 87801-9015

Serial No.: 09/975,649

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Edgar

Filing Date: 10-11-01

Group: 3627

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	✓	EP 0743413	11-20-96	Great Britain				
	✓	*FR 2746840	10-03-97	France				
	✓	*DE 538812	11/1929	Germany				
	✓	*DE 685943	12/1939	Germany				
	✓	GB 5427	3/1911	Great Britain				
	✓	*DE 355578	6/1922	Germany				
	✓	*IT 413637	5/1946	Italy				
	✓	EP 0169644	01-29-86	EPO				
	✓	*DE412970 6	03-11-93	Germany				
	✓	GB 2034801	06-11-80	Great Britain				

\*With Statement of Relevance

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**


Examiner

Date Considered

**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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							Yes	No
	✓	WO90/05822	05-31-90	PCT				
	✓	*EP 0694665	01-31-96	EPO				
	✓	*DE 19527565	01-30-97	Germany				
	✓	GB1563368	03-26-80	Great Britain				
	✓	*DE 19547727A1	06-26-97	Germany				
	✓	EP 285412	10-05-88	Magna International				
	✓	DE 29701390	11/1997	Fed. Republic of Germany				

\*With Statement of Relevance

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							Yes	No
		WO00/20710	4-13-00					

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- ☒ Transmittal Letter  
☐ PATENT APPLICATION  
☐ Specification (Incl. Claims if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs.  
☐ Abstract of Disclosure  
☒ Information Disclosure Statement  
☒ Patent Copies  
☐ Declaration & Power of Attorney  
☐ Declaration Claiming Small Entity Status  
☐ Assignment and Cover Sheet  
☐ Drawings \_\_\_\_\_ Sheets  
☐ Response to Missing Parts Notice  
☐ Response to Office Action/Amendment  
☐ Request for Ext. of Time for filing (\_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Issue Fee Transmittal  
☐ Formal Drawings \_\_\_\_\_ Sheets  
☐ Maintenance Fee Transmittal  
☐ Fee Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Fee Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other (Specify) Statements of Relevance

Inventor: James R. Edgar

Title: "Latch Apparatus and Method"

☒ Serial/Patent No. 09/975,649

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Mail Date: 2-20-02

File No.: 87801-9015 Attorney: CBA

- ☒ Transmittal Letter  
☐ PATENT APPLICATION  
☐ Specification (Incl. Claims if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs.  
☐ Abstract of Disclosure  
☒ Information Disclosure Statement  
☒ Patent Copies  
☐ Declaration & Power of Attorney  
☐ Declaration Claiming Small Entity Status  
☐ Assignment and Cover Sheet  
☐ Drawings \_\_\_\_\_ Sheets  
☐ Response to Missing Parts Notice  
☐ Response to Office Action/Amendment  
☐ Request for Ext. of Time for filing (\_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Issue Fee Transmittal  
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File No.: 87801-9015 Attorney: CBA

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